

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TAVISTOCK  
URBAN AREA FOR 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Johnstone & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an Annual Report for the year 1943. As you are aware I was away on Military Service during this time and am therefore not in a position to enlarge upon the health and sanitary circumstances of your District during the year.

From the statistical column it will be seen that the birth rate remains fairly steady and the apparent rise in the death rate is due to the fact that no comparability factor has this year been supplied by the Registrar-General. The number of infectious diseases notified during the year was at a minimum. The Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector have supplied some interesting figures which are appended.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. 6417.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	45	34	79
Illegitimate	3	2	5

Birth rate 12.3 per 1,000 resident population.  
 England and Wales 16.5.

Still births 6.

Still birth rate 76 per 1,000 live and still births.

DEATHS

Males	46
Females	53
Total	99

Death rate 15.4 per 1,000 population.

Deaths of infants under 1 year 3.

Death rate of infants under 1 year 26 per 1,000 live births.  
 England and Wales 20 per 1,000 live births.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Cerebro Spinal Fever..	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System..	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1
Influenza..	4
Cancer..	13
Cerebral Haemorrhage..	14
Heart Disease..	25
Other Circulatory diseases	4
Bronchitis..	3
Pneumonia..	1
Diseases of Digestive System	2
Puerperal Diseases ..	0
Congenital Causes, etc..	4
Road Traffic Accident..	1
Other Violent Causes..	1
Other Defined diseases..	20
Kidney Diseases..	4
	99

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever..	2
Diphtheria..	1
Pneumonia..	2
Measles..	21

Tuberculosis - New Cases 14 (1 cured)  
Deaths 2  
Cases on Register 48

I am, Mrs. Johnstone & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health,  
Urban District of Tavistock, 1943.

PARTICULARS GIVEN BY SANITARY OFFICERS.

Water Supply. The water supply to the Urban District is obtained by means of field pipes laid in a total of 127 acres of pasture land in what are known locally as the Sandy Park and Wallabrook Valleys.

SUFFICIENCY: It is established beyond question that the supply at the source is more than ample for from eight to ten months of the year but during the dry periods of Summer and Autumn a restricted supply would normally be in operation. To ensure the post-war development the Urban District may reasonably anticipate, the Council are now investigating the possibilities of securing a supplementary supply.

QUALITY: Quarterly samples were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination which with one exception were reported to be satisfactory bacteriologically. The sample adversely reported upon was taken on 7th July, 1943, and contained organisms of intestinal origin in moderate numbers. It was suspected to be due to animal excretion. Shortly afterwards the existing means of chlorination were dispensed with and an electrically operated hypochlorinator installed. An annual chemical examination is also made and that for 24th June, 1943, shows:-

<u>Kilworthy</u>	<u>Sandy Park</u>
Hardness 6°	8.4°
Chlorides as Chlorine 1.5	1.5. parts/1,000
Ammonia free & saline as nitrogen .0002	.0006
Ammonia, albuminoid as nitrogen .0024	.0028 "
Nitrates as nitrogen .048	.018
Nitrates as nitrogen Nil	Nil "
Oxygen (absorbed 3 hrs. at 37° C .025	.022
Metals Zinc, copper and lead absent (both)	
Remarks Sample clear and free from sediment (both).	

TREATMENT of both supplies is by simple chlorination before distribution and a residual of .1 p.p.m. is arranged for.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Meat Inspection. The unsatisfactory state of affairs at the Ministry of Food abattoir in this connection, referred to in previous annual reports, has now been satisfactorily adjusted. The Urban District Council in concert with neighbouring local authorities appointed an Additional Sanitary Inspector and the following brief reference to this officer's duties demonstrates the present satisfactory state of meat inspection:-

<u>No. of animals killed during 1943.</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
From March to December. (Inclusive)	2106	1048	217	871	7504
Average January and February.	351	174	36	145	1250
Total.	2457	1222	253	1016	8754
<u>No. of animals inspected:-</u>					
From March to December.	2106	1048	217	871	7504.
January and February. Not recorded.					
<u>No. of animals affected with</u> <u>Tuberculosis.</u>	0.57%	1.47%	1.18%	0.39%	----
<u>No. of animals affected with</u> <u>disease other than Tuberculosis.</u>	0.65%	3.19%	2.37%	0.80%	0.53%
<u>No. of organs affected with</u> <u>Tuberculosis.</u>	3.13%	10.39%	13.43%	0.10%	----
<u>No. of organs affected with disease</u> <u>other than Tuberculosis.</u>	13.39%	33.30%	7.11%	2.00%	7.99%

(b) Milk..56 Samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, of which 23 were reported upon adversely. Remedial action taken in these cases achieved satisfactory repeat samples.